15th March 1954]

Distribution of yarn at subsidised rates to fishermen.

* 163 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTA PAI (on behalf of Sri M. S. Mogral): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have stopped the distribution of yarn at subsidised rates to fishermen; and

(*b*) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, with effect from the current year (1953–54).

(*b*) From about the middle of 1952–53, on account of decontrol of yarn and its free availability in the open market at cheaper rates, there has been very little or no demand for yarn sold in the Fisheries Department Depots. The balance of the stocks acquired in 1952–53 is being sold out with considerable difficulty to fishermen or other outsiders according to demand. The Government of India have also declined to grant subsidy for this scheme for the current year. The scheme has therefore been closed."

Exclusion of small shops from the scope of the Shops and Establishments Act.

* 164 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have finished consideration of the question of exemption of small shops employing less than 4 or 5 persons from the operation of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act; and

(*b*) if so, the nature of their decision?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Are the Government aware that there is a large volume of opinion against the exemption of these small shops from the operation of this Act? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" We are trying to ascertain public opinion in this matter. We have referred this to all Municipalities and Class I Panchayats for their opinion because we feel they may represent public opinion. We have not received replies from all of them. We shall consider the question as soon as we get the replies."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" பஞ்சாயத்துகளுக்கும் முனிசிபாலிடிகளுக்கும் அனுப்பியது போல் இந்த ரிபோர்ட்டை பொதுமக்கள் சார்பாக வேறு யாருக்காவது அனுப்பி இருக்கிறார்களா ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I suppose that the municipalities and the panchayats represent '*Podu Makkal*' also."